

# Win, Lose, or Draw

By BILL FUCHS

## Hungry Caps Feed the Hands That Pet 'Em

With so many sports running into financial difficulties is the Basketball Association of America to follow suit? A change in the method of dividing gate receipts conceivably could prevent the BAA from committing financial suicide.

Unlike professional baseball and football in which the visiting team shares the receipts, or is given a guarantee, home clubs in the BAA take it all.

This would work out well, indeed, if all the teams were filling home arenas. But they aren't, notably the Washington Capitols. Yet the Sensational Caps, who seldom more than half fill the Uline Arena, are pulling greenbacks into the tills of all the clubs they visit.

The Caps a while back played before 9,129 fans in Minneapolis. It was the season's largest attendance there. They were the magnets, too, for the biggest gathering ever to see a pro basketball game in Boston.

All over the circuit Red Auerbach's super-duper leather dunkers are pulling in the customers. But at home they have failed to dishearten privacy, with empty seats gaping at the brilliant set-shots of Bones McKinney and the spectacular one-handed two-pointers of Bob Feerick, a pair of "acts" which alone would sweeten the turnstile tunes immensely in other BAA cities. Ken Loeffler, coach of the Providence Steamrollers, said the other day that McKinney in a Providence uniform, would pack the home arena every time he appeared.

## A Study in Contrasts at the Gate

And Providence, with the most miserable record in the league, is outdrawing the Caps. While the Steamrollers were suffering their 17th defeat in 19 games before 2,500 fans the Caps were scoring their 17th victory in 19 performances before the same-sized gallery at Uline's. Providence can count on at least 2,500 customers for almost every home game; the Caps have drawn considerably fewer on several occasions.

Under the current system of spoils-splitting in the BAA, the rich get richer and the poor famish. Teams that lack home appeal are on a sacrificial altar. The BAA, now in its third season, already has lost teams in Detroit, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Toronto, all of which for one reason or other failed to win home support. On the road they gained nothing but travel experience.

The scarcity of customers at Uline's is baffling, to say the least, when one considers the big league make-up of Washington and that the Caps are one of the outstanding professional sports teams in the country.

## Next Two Months May Be Revealing

Owner Mike Uline, no doubt, has given all-out thought to the subject. He has been offered, it is reported, fabulous sums for his Caps. Should he sell now, while the Caps are hailed as one of the greatest pro basketball teams since the Original Celtics? Or should he carry on in the hope that his club's fire will warm the cold shoulders of Washington fans?

The next two months may decide whether the Caps are here to stay. It is felt that business should pick up soon at Uline's. What with pro football and Christmas out of the way, Mr. Fan may be willing to part with the \$2.50, \$2 or \$1.25 charged to see a Caps game. No, Red Auerbach's court wizards aren't piling up the green stuff for Mr. Uline. How different it would be if the Caps were cut in on the juicy melons they deliver around the circuit!

And unless a change is made in the BAA disposition of gate receipts, watch for more teams to give up the ghost. After all, one can't eat victories.

# Justice Spurred by Sugar Bowl Failure in 1947

## Flop of Heralded Duel With Trippi Recalled; Wildcat Star Ailing

By the Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 29.—Charley Justice will have an extra incentive to display his All-America greatness in the Sugar Bowl New Year's Day. He'll be trying to rub out the memory of a thwarted effort there two years ago.

On January 1, 1947, Justice and his North Carolina Tar Heels lined up for the annual classic against Georgia's Bulldogs. The assembled multitude was breathless in expectation of a duel between Justice and Georgia's All-America Charley Trippi.

But the spectacular show didn't come off. The fancy bucked -pent much of the afternoon hurried under swarms of opposing linemen.

Justice, particularly, was "clowed to a creep. In 17 trips with the ball he netted only 31 yards. An overhauled Georgia line piled up almost every Carolina strong-side play. Trippi did a little better, with 54 yards in 14 attempts.

The Carolina Choo Choo is a much improved player now, judging by all reports reaching here.

His rushing average this year was 5.2, very impressive for a player marked by every opponent. He scored 11 touchdowns, two on punt returns.

Justice hurled 122 times for 854 yards and a dozen touchdowns in the recent campaign.

Justice outplayed Trippi in the Sugar Bowl, 38.8 yards to 32.7. And this year Justice had the country's best collegiate average, 44 yards per boot.

And so Charley is well equipped to make \$1,000 spectators forget about that business two years ago. "I'm going to play the best I know now, that's all," he said.

## Northwestern's Burson Nursing Sore Flipper

PASADENA, Calif., Dec. 29.—(AP)—In the absence of any major development, today's Rose Bowl contest centered on a right arm. It belongs to Quarterback Don Burson, who is not only Northwestern University's best but practically her only worthwhile passer.

The arm, which accounted for 33 completions out of 80 throws for a not so sensational gain of 493 yards this fall, is sore.

There is nothing seriously wrong, but it is so sore it will be kept wrapped, unused for throwing purposes, until it accompanies its owner onto the playing field New Year's Day against California.

The 21-year-old arm—the exact age of Burson—isn't the most deadly weapon in college football. But it was sharp enough to hit targets for five of the seven touchdowns Northwestern scored via the air. And as a threat, it was dangerous enough to keep the enemy secondary far enough back to permit Ar. Murkowski and his running mates to roll up gains on the ground. And roll they did, into the Rose Bowl.

## Minor Operation On Citation's Leg Takes One Hour

By the Associated Press

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 29.—Calumet Farm's wonder horse, Citation, was "freed" today for a popped ossicle on his left foreleg.

The minor operation, which required an hour, was performed at Hialeah race course by Dr. A. H. Davidson of Lexington, Ky., who described it as "just a routine operation."

Dr. Davidson said the affected area on the inside of the left foreleg covered an area about an inch square. It would have gone into a bony growth if it had not been treated, he said.

The operation consisted of inserting electrically-heated needles under the skin around the affected area and "blistering" the spot.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 29.—The financial future of professional football's lesser lights is likely to be pretty gloomy, General Manager Charley Ewart of the Philadelphia Eagles predicted today.

Ewart said the pro football players in the National Football League—such as the Eagles' Steve Van Buren, Tommy Thompson and Pete Pihos—will continue to get fat contracts in 1949, but that the substitutes and rookies will find the trend away from the big money next season.

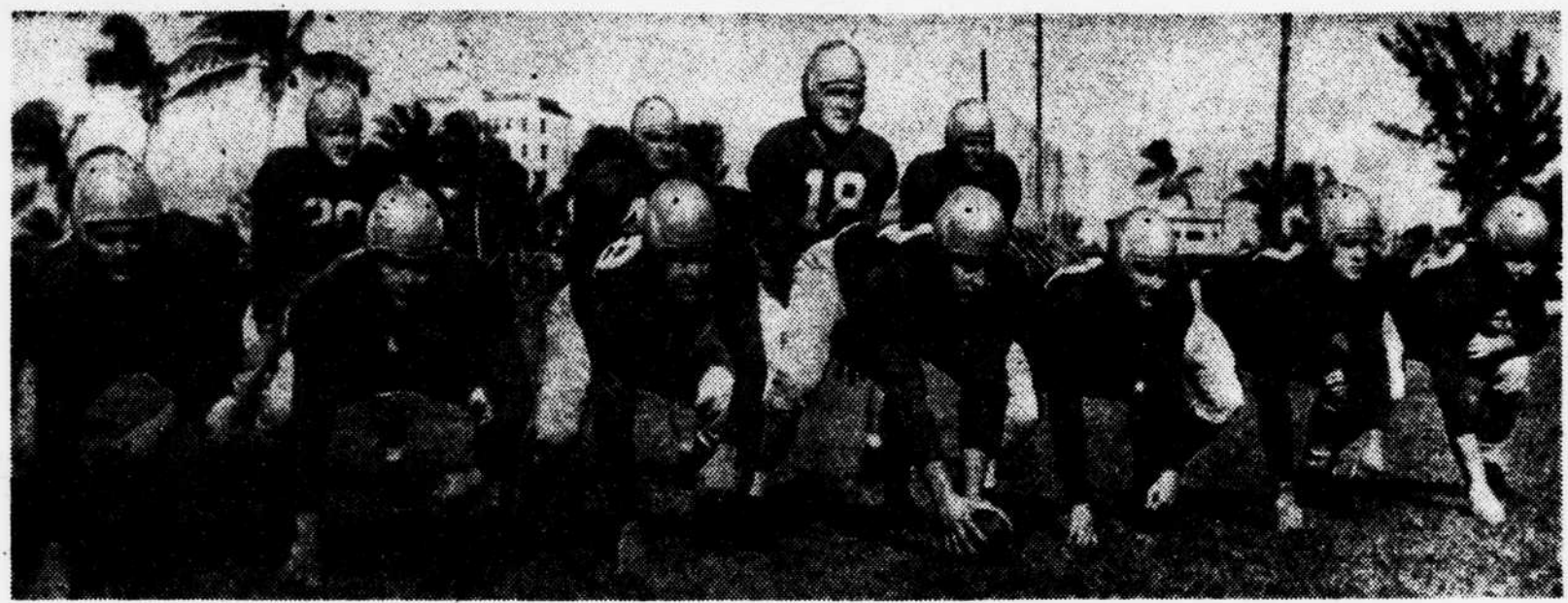
"I think the top players should get every cent they're worth," Ewart asserted. "And I personally hope we'll always be able to pay them top salaries."

But the unmistakable trend is downward, Ewart said, adding that means "our teams, and those in the All-American Conference, I mean, won't be shelling out fat contracts to subs any more."

Ewart, who doubles as backfield coach of the NFL champions, explained that the pro football club owners in trying to devise ways of cutting down expenses have hit on two ways to save money.

These are, he said:

1. To reduce the player limit per club from 35 to 32.
2. To slash the salaries of the



GEORGIA'S POSSIBLE STARTERS—The possible starting lineup of the Georgia Bulldogs, who meet the University of Texas in the Orange Bowl in Miami Saturday, as given by Coach Wally Butts, is (left to right) front row: Gene Lorenzo (56), Porter Payne (66), Co-Capt. Bernie Reid (78), Joe Jackura (87), Homer Hobbs (79), Jack Bush (67), Co-Capt. Weyman Sellers (53), and back row: Floyd Reid (30), Johnny Rauch (18), Al Bodine (44) and Joe Geri (35).

## Ross and Karver to Continue Mile Rivalry in Star Games

Gerald Karver and Browning Ross, just about the two best amateur milers in the country since the retirement of Gil Dadds, have both entered the Junior Board Mile in the Evening Star-AAU Games to be held in the National Guard Armory on the evening of January 15.

Ross, the Villanova star whose coach expects him to be the best miler in the country, last January won the mile in the first Evening Star Games. He ran the eight laps in the astounding time of 4:13.7.

While better time has been made, Ross won the event under a handicap. He arrived in Washington at 5 p.m. on the afternoon of January 3 after driving up from New Orleans with Bill Hulse, who also ran in the mile event. They left New Orleans after the Sugar Bowl football game and, with only two or three hours to stretch their legs, they entered the contest against a good field which included John Towney of Illinois, Jack Milne of North Carolina and Bill Berger of Columbia.

Ross was never headed after taking the lead early in the race. Karver, former Penn State star, has been the most consistent winner next to Dadds and has done



BROWNING ROSS, Shown winning Junior Board of Commerce Invitation Mile, at 1948 Evening Star-AAU games at Armory.

the mile in 4:11, although this was outdoors.

Karver and Ross met in the Inquirer Mile at Philadelphia on January 17 with Karver winning over Ross in 4:16.3. Two weeks later in the Millrose Games at Madison

Square the two met again. In the Wanamaker Mile, Gil Dadds broke the American indoor record with a time of 4:15.3. William Mack of Michigan State, who has been invited to compete in The Star Games, ran second. Ross was fourth, finishing ahead of Karver.

In the I. C. 4-A title meet Karver ran away from Ross, who had the misfortune in the draw to be placed in the third row of starters with Karver in the first row. By the time Ross had worked his way through the pack it was too late. Karver, not too hard pushed, eased up to win in 4:22.7.

Ross raced in the 5th Regiment Armory Games in Baltimore later in the season to win without too much effort in 4:17.9.

In the Baxter Mile of the N. Y. A. C. meet on February 15, Karver ran a fast 4:15 mile. Ross was third.

The results of the series of meetings left Karver with perhaps a shade the better record, but Ross, defending champion in the Junior Board Mile here, should make a race of it. If either or both of these two are off top there are other top milers who might surprise with a win.

Ross was a member of the Ameri-

## Cifers to Settle Here; McAfee Will Coach

By the Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Dec. 29.—Ed Cifers, who spent six years in the National Football League with the Redskins and the Chicago Bears, said he will retire to devote full time to his warehouse and exporting business in Washington.

The former Tennessee end said he played six years with the pros and had only a little scar on the nose to show for it and decided to quit "before I get hurt." He is in Memphis for a family visit.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 29.—George McAfee said he is considering several pro and college coaching offers and will take one of them, ending his career with the Chicago Bears.

The former Duke halfback was one of the great stars of the National League for a number of years with the Bears.

## Coss, Rogers Advance In National Net Tourney

Special Dispatch to The Star

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 29.—Tim Coss of Washington, D. C., got by the second round of the National Boys' Singles Tennis Tournament here last night with a 6-3, 6-0, victory over Larry Doer of St. Louis.

Coss then teamed with Ted Rogers, also of Washington, to defeat Edgar Stemmler and Marshall Clarke of St. Louis, 6-1, 6-2, in the first round of the boys' doubles.

## Pro Football's Lesser Lights Must Take Pay Cut, Ewart Says

By the Associated Press

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## Signing of Nichols Makes Caps Cinch to Capture League Title

Special Dispatch to The Star

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Dec. 29.—Washington's Capitols, already breezing toward the championship of the Basketball Association of America, have applied what may be a clincher in the signing of Jack Nichols, West Coast star. The Caps meet the Lakers here tonight.

Nichols played with Washington University for three years and Southern California two years during the war. He set a Pacific Coast Conference scoring record last year in leading Washington to the conference title. This year he has performed with the San Francisco Stewart-Chevrolet club, a top amateur outfit.

"We need another big man," Auerbach moaned at the start of the season. "We want Nichols. Without him I don't know."

Nichols wasn't interested at first. The Caps picked the 6-foot 8½-inch, five-time All-West Coast ace as their No. 1 draft choice, but Nichols signed with the amateur team.

Bob Feerick, the Caps' lanky captain, can be given an assist in landing Nichols. Feerick, who helped Auerbach obtain Freddy Scolari and Dick O'Keefe, called Nichols several times by phone and on one occasion visited him.

Nichols is slated to play Saturday night when the Caps meet the Chicago Stags in Washington. The Caps have beaten every team in the circuit except the Stags, who have played only 18 games, fewer than any other team.

The Stags tightened their grip on second place in the Western division last night by edging Boston, 76-74, in the last 25 seconds. Ed Mikan, brother of George Mikan, star of the Minneapolis team, sank the winning basket.

The Celtics-Stags contest at Boston was the only action in the league last night. Tonight Providence will be at Baltimore and Rochester at New York.

## College Basket Ball Results

By the Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY TOURNAMENT. (Continued.) Oklahoma 58, Colorado 45. Baylor 49, Texas 46.

OKLAHOMA CITY TOURNAMENT. (Continued.) Texas Tech 55, Southern Methodist 52. Colorado Aries 54, Auburn 51. BIG SEVEN TOURNAMENT AT KANSAS CITY. First Round. Oklahoma 56, Colorado 45. Kansas 60, Missouri 40.

INVITATION TOURNAMENT AT LOS ANGELES. (First Round.) Wyoming 41, North Carolina State 39. Pennington 78, Marshall 30. Hamline 54, Los Angeles Loyola 40.

PACIFIC COAST CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT AT SAN FRANCISCO. (Semifinals.) U. C. L. A. 47, California 43. Southern California 42, Pacific Coast 40.

Oregon State 64, Washington 62. Washington State 50, Oregon 37. CAMELLIA BOWL AT LAFAYETTE, LA. (Final.) North Carolina 60, Arizona 40.

DOUBLE-HEADER AT NEW YORK. Utah 68, St. John's (Bkn.) 57. C. C. N. Y. 72, Miami (Fla.) 55.

DOUBLE-HEADER AT MIAMI, FLA. Miami (Fla.) 37, Princeton 35. Pitt. 50, Notre Dame 40.

DOUBLE-HEADER AT INDIANAPOLIS. Indiana 59, Butler 43. BUTLER. (First Game.) Butler 43, Phillips Univ. 60. Adams (Colo.) State 41. West Texas 78, Northwest Oklahoma 60.

Northwest Missouri 79, North Texas 58. North Louisiana 75, St. John's Kansas 49. LOUISIANA INVITATION TOURNAMENT AT DUBUQUE. (First Round.) Luther 68, Cornell (Iowa) 41. St. Mary's (Minn.) 50, St. Ambrose 48. Culver-Stockton 54, Simpson 47.

## Golden Superman's Mat Streak Risked

By the Associated Press

Tonight brings the last wrestling show of the 1948 season to Turner's Arena, when Marvin Mercer will attempt to halt the eight-bout winning streak of Hollywood's fabulous Golden Superman in the feature tangle.

In addition to his straining chokes the Superman will play the role of belated Santa, distributing to children in Washington the pictures of himself hurtling through the air.

In the semiwindup Ivan Kamoroff, the Russian bone-snapper, will go to it with Italian "Wildman" Michel Leone. Michel is fresh from a battle with former Champion Babe Sharky.

A special two-man team match will wind up the grappling year with a bang, as Stu Hart and Ace Freeman, one of the best combinations in the East, mix it up with the double trouble of Stanley Novak and Joe Kamoroff.

The opener at 8:45 pits Frenchman Francois Miquette against ferocious "Tiger" Joe Marsh.

## Boudreau May Be Paid \$75,000 Under New Pact, Rivaling Feller

By the Associated Press

CLEVELAND, Dec. 29.—The Cleveland Plain Dealer said today that Manager Lou Boudreau of the Cleveland Indians is due for a new two or three-year contract with higher base pay and bigger attendance bonuses.

The paper, in a story under the by-line of Harry Jones, said: "Provided the Indians draw approximately the same number of people as they did last season, the 31-year-old pilot will receive between \$60,000 and \$75,000, according to the reported terms under discussion."

"Boudreau next year is likely to make as much as Bob Feller, who is slated for a decrease in pay."

Boudreau, the American League's most valuable player in 1948, draws two salaries, one as manager of the world champions and the other as shortstop. At his home in Harvey, Ill., he said:

"I expect to be in Cleveland January 18. I think Bill and I will discuss it further at that time."

The Plain Dealer's story continued: "Boudreau the Tribe's pilot is still working under a two-year agreement signed last Winter. President Bill Veck has indicated that he will tear up that document and replace it with one that is likely to elevate Boudreau into the highest paid class of performers in baseball."

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## Game Against Georgia Full of Its for Texas

By the Associated Press

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 29.—If Texas can stop Georgia's Joe Geri and Floyd Reid on the ground and Johnny Rauch's passes, the Longhorns may have themselves an Orange Bowl victory.

However, the Tribe's pilot is still working under a two-year agreement signed last Winter. President Bill Veck has indicated that he will tear up that document and replace it with one that is likely to elevate Boudreau into the highest paid class of performers in baseball."

The business of stopping Geri was left unfinished by many of Georgia's opponents this fall. The senior from Phoenix, Pa., who hopes to play professionally, scored 90 points.

Geri isn't noted for speed or take-off. He's never been called a "ball handling wizard" and he doesn't change direction like a jeep. His ability was summarized in the Georgia Tech game when four tacklers on one run bounced off his stocky 180-pound frame.

Floyd Reid is better around ends since he has speed and maneuverability. In 92 tries Reid picked up 321 yards. In addition he often is the paycheck runner when the goal is near.

Generally speaking, Rauch to Bob Walston or Gene Lorenzo is Georgia's passing attack.

Of 162 passes thrown by Georgia, Rauch got off 141 of them. His completions were better than .500 in percentage and they gained 1,307 yards.

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## Wyoming, Utah Lead For Skyline Crown; Bowl Tourney Tonight

By the Associated Press

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—It looks as if Wyoming and Utah will battle it out for the championship of the Skyline Six Conference basketball title this season.

The two Rocky Mountain collegiate quintets demonstrated their finesse on the hardwood on opposite sides of the continent last night.

Wyoming, competing in the invitation tourney at Los Angeles, defeated North Carolina State, Southern Conference Kings, 41 to 39. Utah, playing before 17,291 in Madison Square Garden, New York, piled up a 16-1 early edge to trounce St. Johns of Brooklyn, 66-57.

Their victories, along with those of Baylor, Stanford, Indiana and Bradley, featured play around the country as the holiday week unfolded more tournament games and intercollegiate scraps.

Meanwhile, at New Orleans the greatest collection of collegiate cage talent since last spring's final Olympic tryouts will be assembled at the Municipal Auditorium tonight for the opening of the streamlined four-team Sugar Bowl basketball tournament.

Cooling in the first game of the two-night basketball carnival will be undefeated St. Louis University, winner of the National invitational tournament last season, and Holy Cross, defending Eastern A.A.A. champion and collegiate titleholder the previous year.

The second game tonight will send Kentucky's all-victorious Wildcats, present holders of the NCAA crown, against a Tulane quintet that has won eight of its nine starts this season.

Baylor, perhaps in a preview of the Southwest Conference race, upset Texas, 49 to 46, in the Oklahoma City tourney last night, and now faces the Oklahoma Aggies for the crown. The Aggies whipped Alabama, 44-31.

Unbeaten Stanford chalked up its ninth straight triumph in the Pacific Coast Conference tourney at San Francisco. The Indians beat UCLA, 55-47, after California surprised with a 43-42 win over Southern California.

Indiana defeated Notre Dame, 50-47, in one half of a doubleheader at Indianapolis. Butler, which whipped Indiana the previous night, beat Purdue, 47-43, in the nightcap. Bradley maintained its unbeaten status with an 80-60 conquest of Centenary.

Marshall of West Virginia, the defending champs in the Los Angeles tourney, went down to a 78-39 defeat at the hands of Pepperdine while Hamline nicked Los Angeles Loyola, 54-49.

Oklahoma and Kansas chalked up first round triumphs in the Big Seven tourney at Kansas City. Oklahoma beat Colorado, 59-45, and Kansas whipped Missouri, 62-50.

North Carolina won the Camellia Bowl at Lafayette, La., with a 60-49 victory over Arizona. In a double-header at Miami, Fla., Pitt defeated Florida, 50-40, and Miami (Fla.) surprised Princeton, 37-35.

In other games Louisville rallied to beat Seton Hall, 71-69. West Virginia beat Rutgers, 63-35; Siena took the Texas Aggies, 43-36.

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